



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY BERNIER

For Immediate Release
February 20, 2018

Contact: Rep. Kathy Bernier
(608) 266-9172

STATE ASSEMBLY APPROVES THREE BERNIER BILLS

*Supported Decision-Making, Dental Reimbursement Rate, Road Protection Measure Gain
Bi-Partisan Support*

Madison – Today in legislative session, the state Assembly passed three bills authored by Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie) with bi-partisan support.

Assembly Bill 627, relating to dental reimbursement pilot project in the Medical Assistance (MA) program, allows the Department of Human Services (DHS) to allocate additional funds leftover after disbursement of monies to the four-county pilot program, be directed to counties in need of increased dental reimbursement when excess funds exceed \$100,000.

“This bill provides an opportunity to expand this successful program and increase accessibility to dental care in our MA population”, Rep. Bernier said. “The bill further requires DHS to report cost-savings, number of MA patients served, and an estimate of the potential reduction in health care costs and emergency department use by Medical Assistance recipients due to the pilot project.”

Assembly Bill 655, relating to supported decision-making agreements, incorporates “Supported Decision-Making” as a legally recognized agreement. These agreements address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, their support networks, and the professionals with whom they interact.

“Supported Decision-Making provides an opportunity for older adults and people with disabilities to remain fully in charge of their decisions, while enabling them to access support they need to make life decisions,” Rep. Bernier said. “Supported Decision-Making does not replace Wisconsin’s existing guardianship system, rather it simply provides an additional option for individuals and families seeking assistance with life decisions.”

Assembly Bill 697, relating to animal-drawn vehicles, allows municipalities to adopt by resolution a provision requiring horseshoe traction devices be no longer than one-quarter inch between April 1 and October 31. The bill further requires municipalities adopting a resolution to post roads and provides for a warning for a first offense.

“The issue we address in AB 697 was brought to our attention by two separate local community leaders in response to several incidents on opposite sides of the district in which horseshoes had caused significant damage to local roads that were newly paved,” Rep. Bernier said. “Assembly Bill 697 provides an effective education tool that, working with Amish communities, will protect our roads, especially newly paved roads, and a state-wide approach is much preferred to a series of different locally enacted ordinances.

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(608) 266-9172
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0068
Fax: (608) 282-3668
Home: (715) 720-0326

P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952
Rep.Bernier@legis.wi.gov